

**Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2014**

In Attendance:

Dave Colteryahn, chair
Greg LoBuono, vice-chair
Veronica Craig, recording secretary
Becky Montag
Tom Nault
Chuck Ullrich
Rodney Spencer, Parks Board Liaison
Bob Schappacher, Parks and Recreation Representative

Absent: Brian DeRoo, Mitch Rhodus,

Meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by chairperson Dave Colteryahn.

Minutes: The minutes for the November 6th meeting were approved with one correction. The January meeting venue should be the CAC, not the Water Plant.

Standing Business

Correspondence/Articles: Veronica brought in an article, "620,000 trees to honor every casualty of Civil War," which appeared in *USAToday*.

Tom shared information from the Hamilton County Parks District stating that 399 ash trees have been removed from The Vineyard golf course due to the EAB infestation.

EC Activity Hours: Dave/1, Greg/1.5, Chuck/1, Tom/1.5, Becky/1, Veronica/2.

Adopt-a-Roadway: Tom did the most recent Muskopf Road clean-up. Bob included a sign-up sheet in this month's meeting packet. Members each selected a two month slot. All cleanups for 2014 are covered, with the exception of the November/December slot.

Parks Board Report

Rodney reported that the last Parks Board meeting was held in November. The golf program was on that agenda. Although play at Fairfield's city courses was down about 10%, that figure was not too bad, compared to some courses in the area. The drop was probably due to the weather.

A progress report was given on the Aquatic Center. The play structure leakage issue appears to be resolved. \$300,000 has been appropriated for renovations. The City is taking bids for a PVC membrane liner and for a new filter for the baby pool. Work should be completed before next spring's opening.

Parks Department Report

Website Update: Bob included stats for November and December in this month's meeting packet. Of the 42 visitors to the EC website, half of them were first time viewers. EC members were pleased with these numbers, which reflect a substantial increase from the year before.

Creekside Honor Grove: Four trees have been planted, three of which were given to the City through a grant from Natorp's Garden Center.

The first honor tree has been purchased. It is a red sunset maple and will be planted in the spring. Bob has been contacted by people inquiring about having a tree planted in the Grove. The complete brochure, with tree species, a price list and purchasing information, can be found on the EC website.

Dave suggested that EC members take time at next month's meeting to discuss ways to publicize the Honor Grove at the upcoming Home Expo (April 5).

Bob reported that the signs for the new Creekside Park and its Honor Grove are ready. They will be installed as soon as weather permits.

The irrigation system is ready as well, but also must wait until the weather improves.

This spring, Bob will place the first Honor Grove order with Jim Montague (Lakeview Garden Center) for all the trees purchased. When the trees arrive, the planting crew from the City of Fairfield will pick them up and plant them in their designated spots.

A dedication ceremony in honor of this first planting will be held sometime this spring. Bob will provide the families with more details as they become available.

Seedling Giveaway: There are many more species to choose from this year, as Butler County has joined forces with Warren County for more purchasing power. Members discussed possible species choices and will make a final decision at next month's meeting. Orders must be placed by March 26th. Bob will scan the list and e-mail it to members.

Tree City USA: Wendi is optimistic that Fairfield will qualify for both the Tree City and the Growth Awards this year. Ben's participation in the Tree Academy Program earned the bulk of the point requirement. This year's Awards Luncheon will be held in Tipp City on Friday, April 11th.

Butler County Walnut Quarantine: Bob included a copy of the press release in the meeting packet. Butler County was added to the list of quarantined counties in Ohio where Thousand Cankers Disease (TCD) has been detected. It is caused by a fungus transported by the walnut twig beetle, and has been found in 14 states. The black walnut and other walnut species are this pest's target, and the infestation eventually kills the tree. There is no known treatment.

Miscellaneous: Three EC members' terms will be ending next month. Dave, Greg and Chuck will all be reapplying for their current seats on the Environmental Commission.

Other Business

November's Meeting and Tour: EC members all expressed their appreciation to Dave Crouch, Public Utilities Director for the City of Fairfield, for hosting last month's meeting at the Water Plant and for the informative discussion/tour that followed. All members agreed that they would like to make a return trip in the future. Thank you, Dave for your time and your dedication.

Calendar:

Parks Board Meeting – January 21, 2014 at 6:00 pm, CAC

EC Meeting – February 5, 2014 at 6:00 pm, CAC

Fairfield Home Improvement Expo – Saturday, April 5, 2014, CAC

Tree City Luncheon – Friday, April 11, 2014 at Tipp City

Adjournment: at 7:05 pm